Win Thomas books inside!

© William Heinemann Ltd. 1996.

Marvel

26th Jan. 1996
No 216 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

FREE

Poster!

9 770954 939077 04

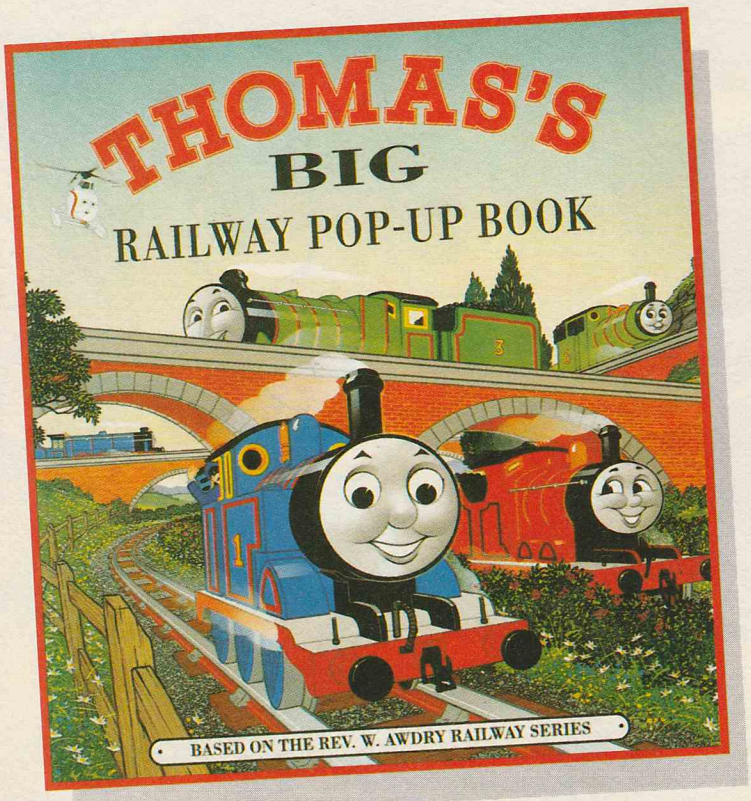
Great new stories! Colouring fun!

ALL AB

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! Here comes another great issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends. Little Percy tries hard to be a Really Useful Engine, and he can't wait to have his own branch line. Have all his dreams come true? Find out in 'The new track'. Has Thomas done something wrong? Why does the Fat Controller want his line made smaller? All is explained in 'The little line'. As well as these splendid stories, there's colouring fun and a great game to play!

What fun! Peep! Peep!



Here's your chance to win a super Thomas Big Railway Pop-up Book! Thomas and his friends have fun and adventures every day in this great book, and we have 15 copies to give away! Turn to page 18 to find out how to enter!

Plus Ertl collectable poster!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** Chairman: Jim Galton; Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editor: Cynthia O'Neill; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design: Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

Contents

4. **The new track**
Things look up... and up... for Percy!

8. **Count and colour**
The engines are all asleep

10. **Letters and drawings**
Have you won a 'star prize'?

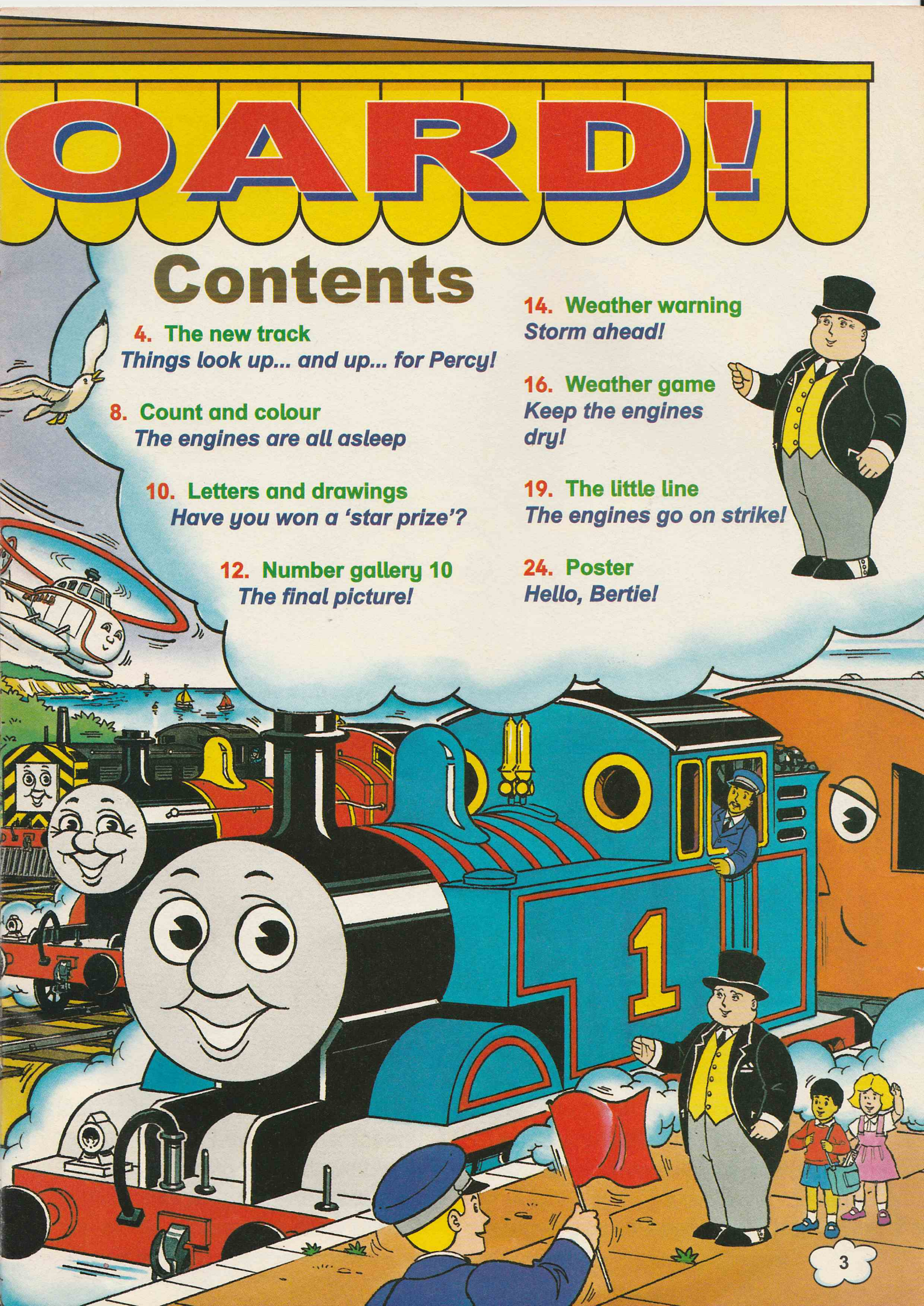
12. **Number gallery 10**
The final picture!

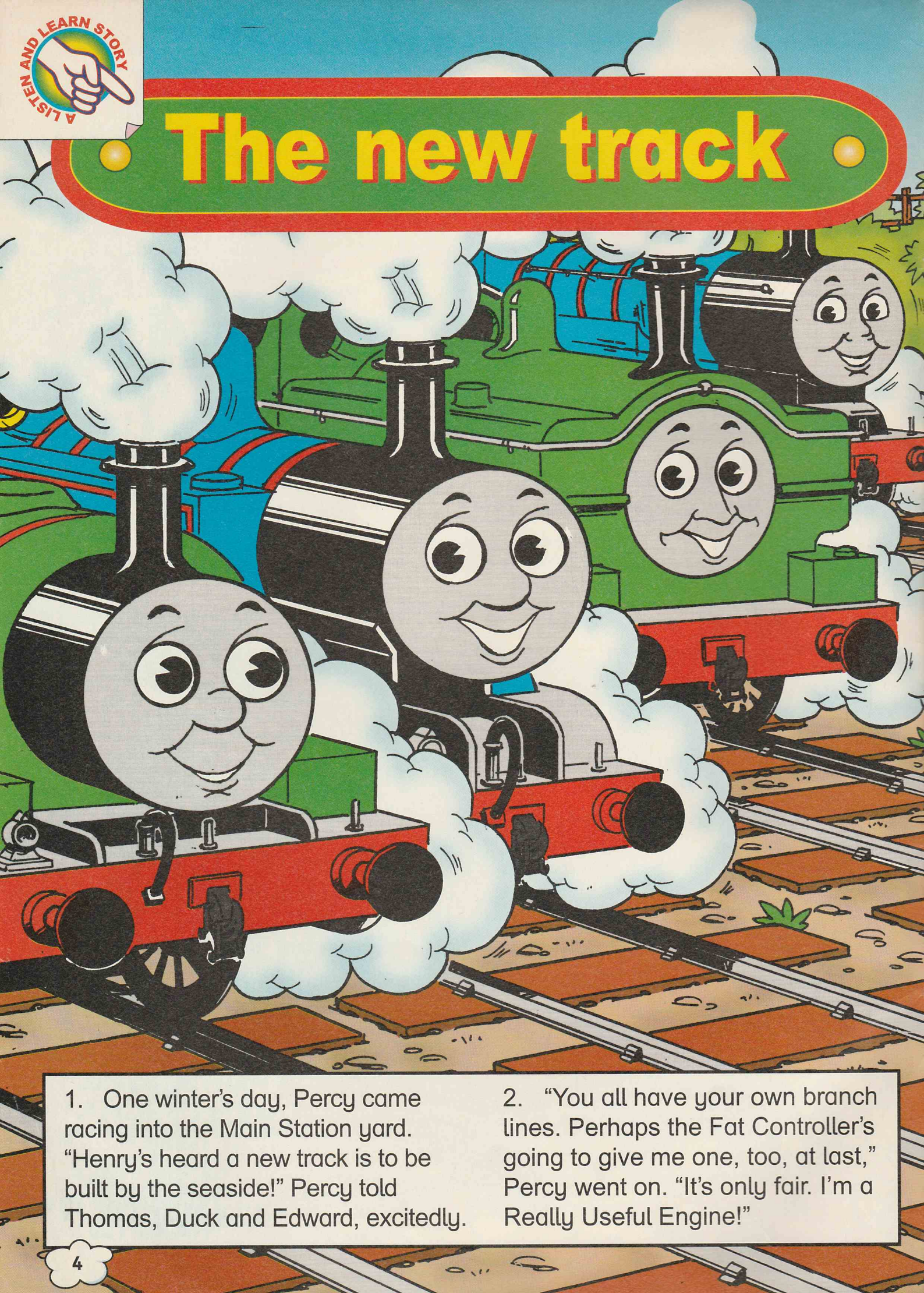
14. **Weather warning**
Storm ahead!

16. **Weather game**
Keep the engines dry!

19. **The little line**
The engines go on strike!

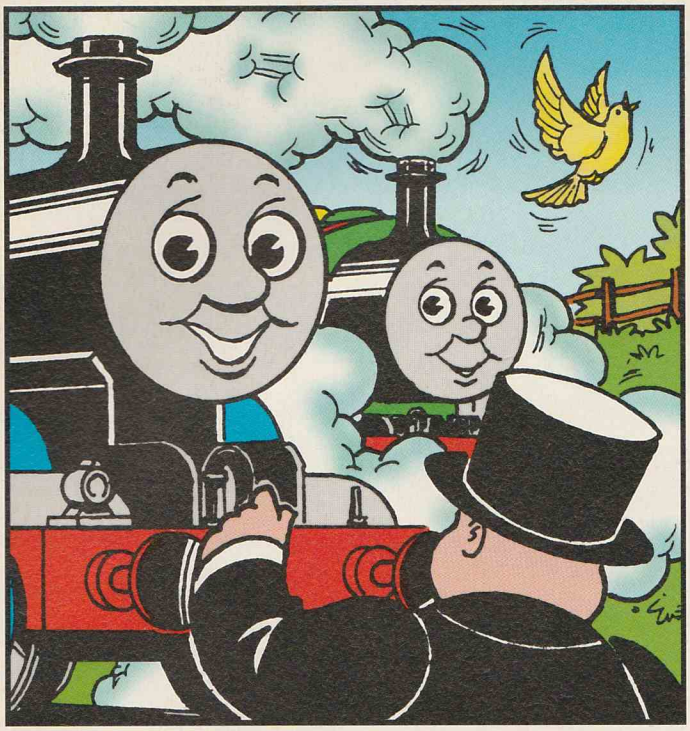
24. **Poster**
Hello, Bertie!



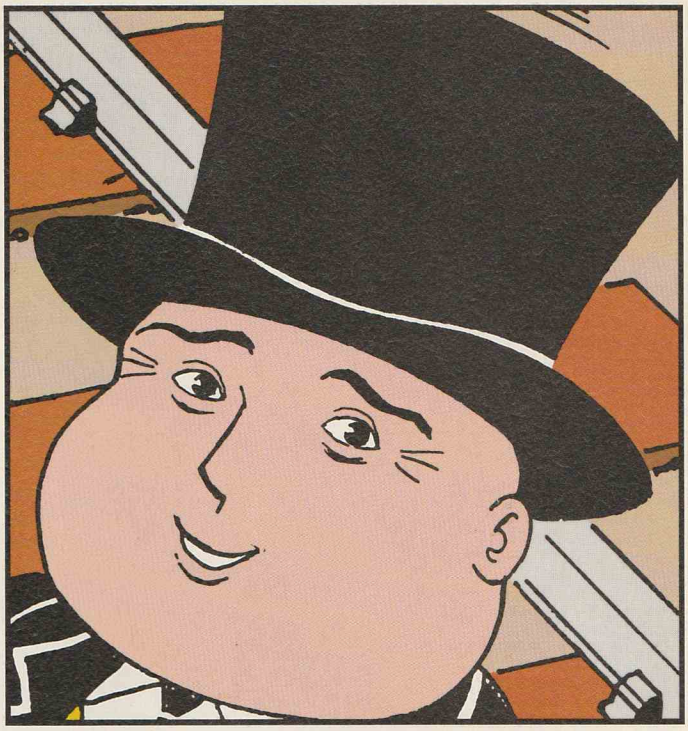


1. One winter's day, Percy came racing into the Main Station yard. "Henry's heard a new track is to be built by the seaside!" Percy told Thomas, Duck and Edward, excitedly.

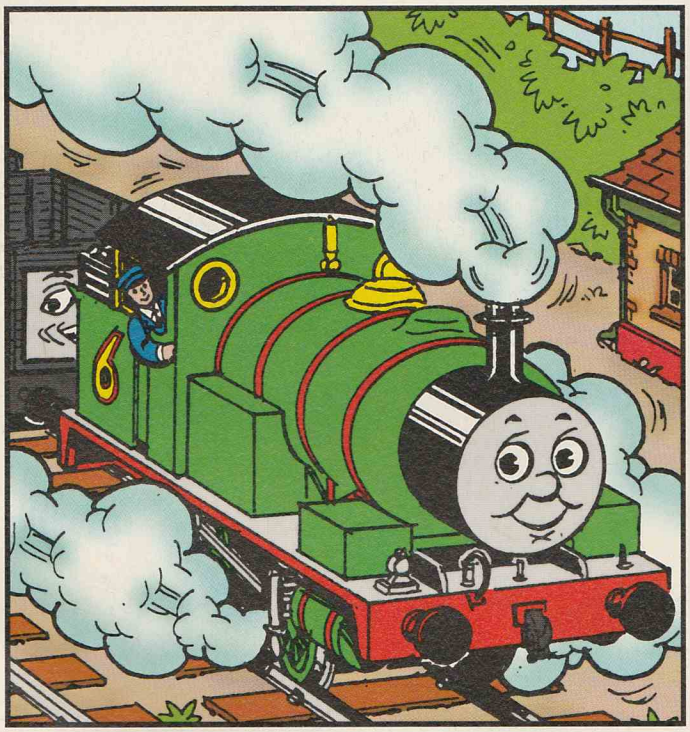
2. "You all have your own branch lines. Perhaps the Fat Controller's going to give me one, too, at last," Percy went on. "It's only fair. I'm a Really Useful Engine!"



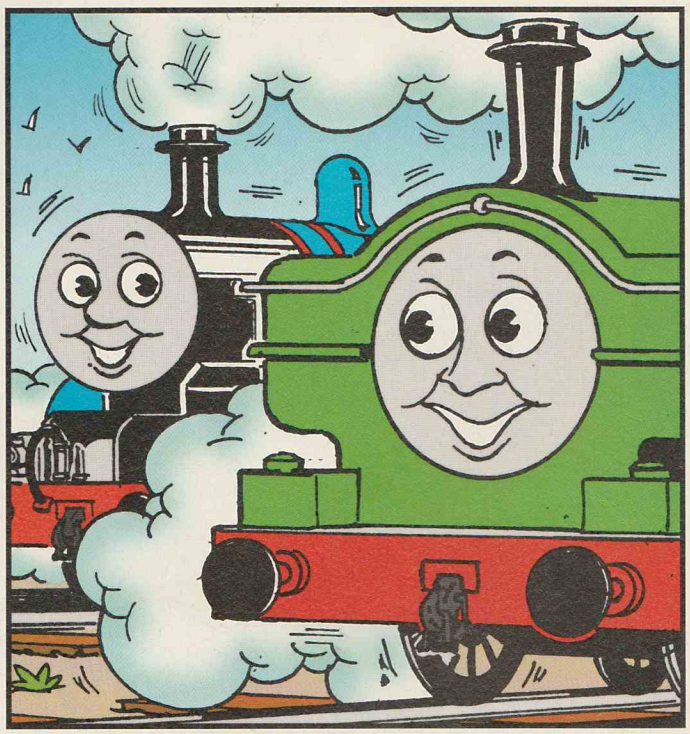
3. "Here's the Fat Controller now," said Thomas. "Why don't you ask him?" The Fat Controller told Percy to collect some new rails arriving by boat from the mainland.



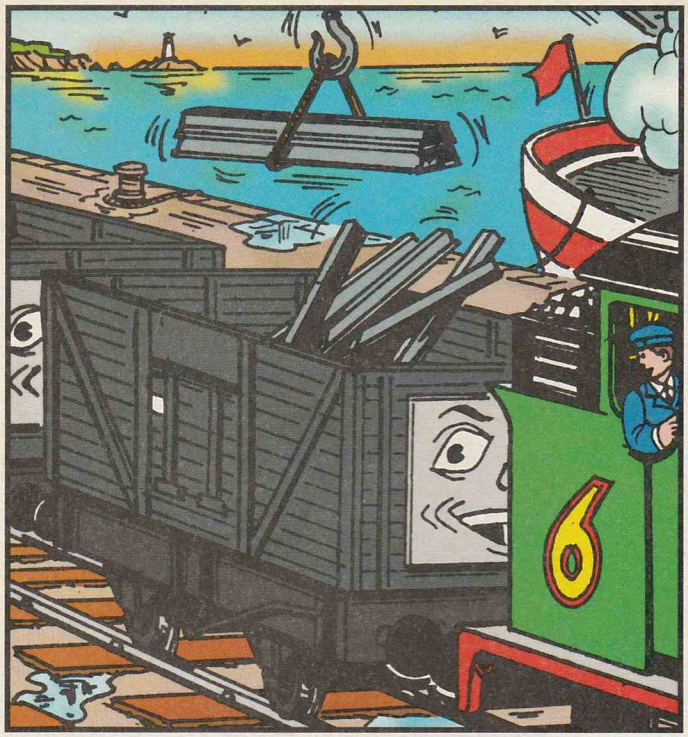
4. "Are they for the new track, sir?" he asked. "Yes," replied the Fat Controller. "I expect it will be a big success next summer!" Percy was more excited than ever.



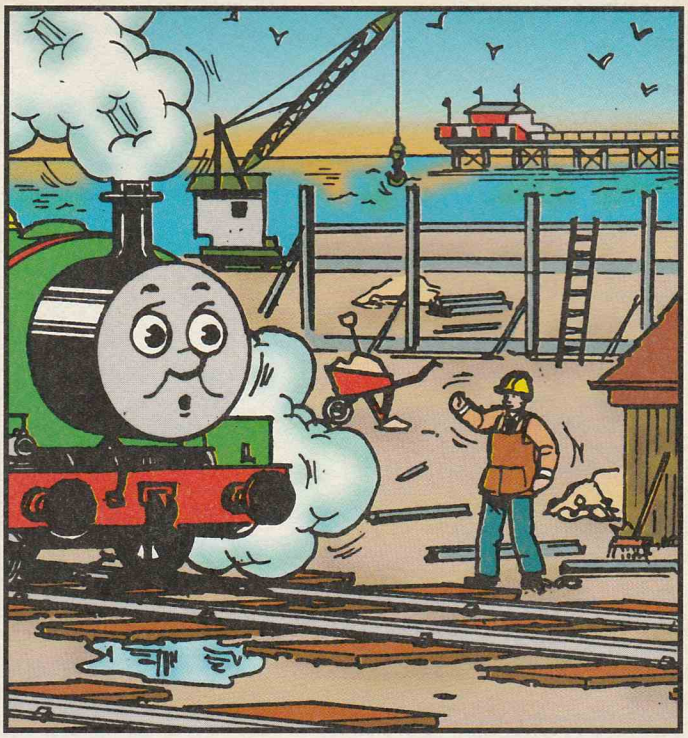
5. "What did I tell you?" he said to the other engines when the Fat Controller had gone. "I was asked to get the rails because I'll be using them!" Soon Percy set off.



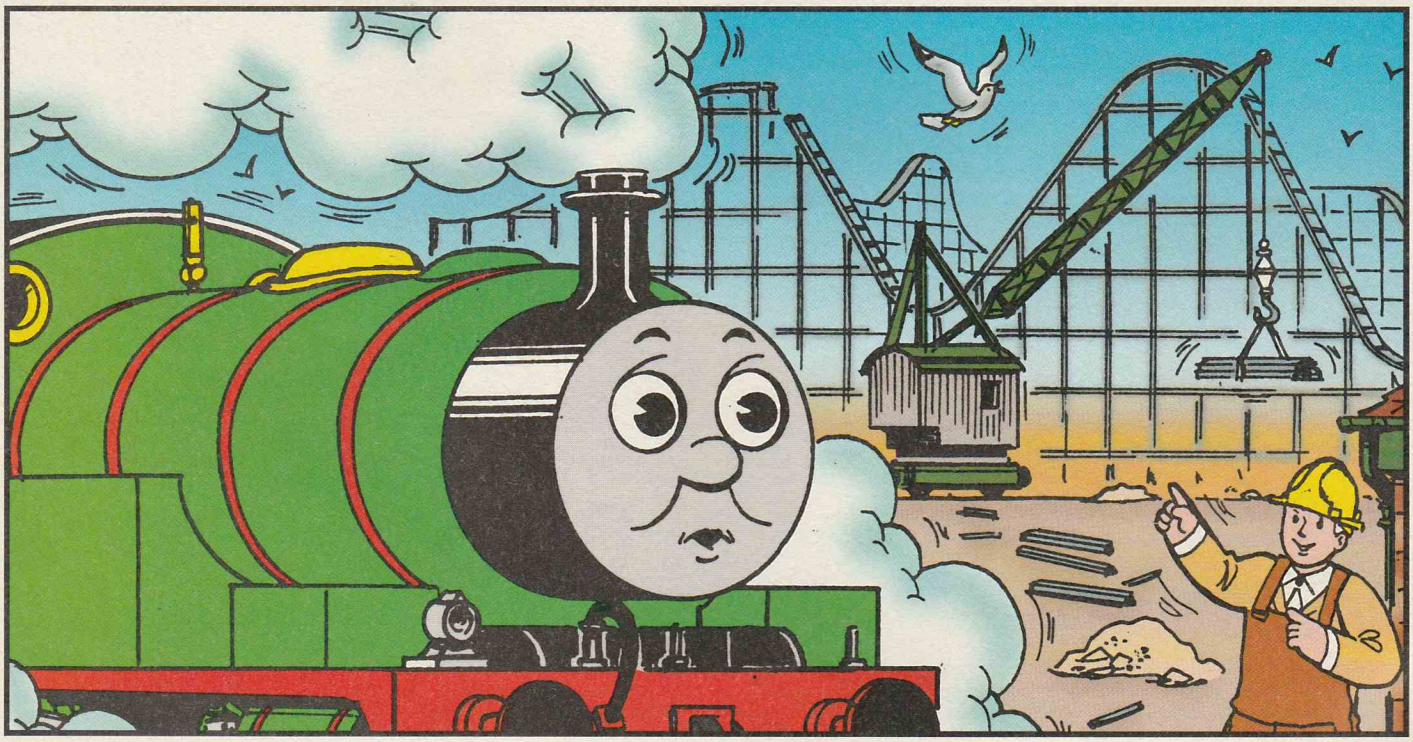
6. "I do hope he's right!" puffed Thomas. "The Fat Controller didn't actually say the new track was for Percy. "Maybe it's meant to be a special surprise," replied Duck.



7. At the Big Harbour, the rails were put aboard Percy's trucks. Then he took them along the coast. Not far from the pier, Percy saw men working on a building site.

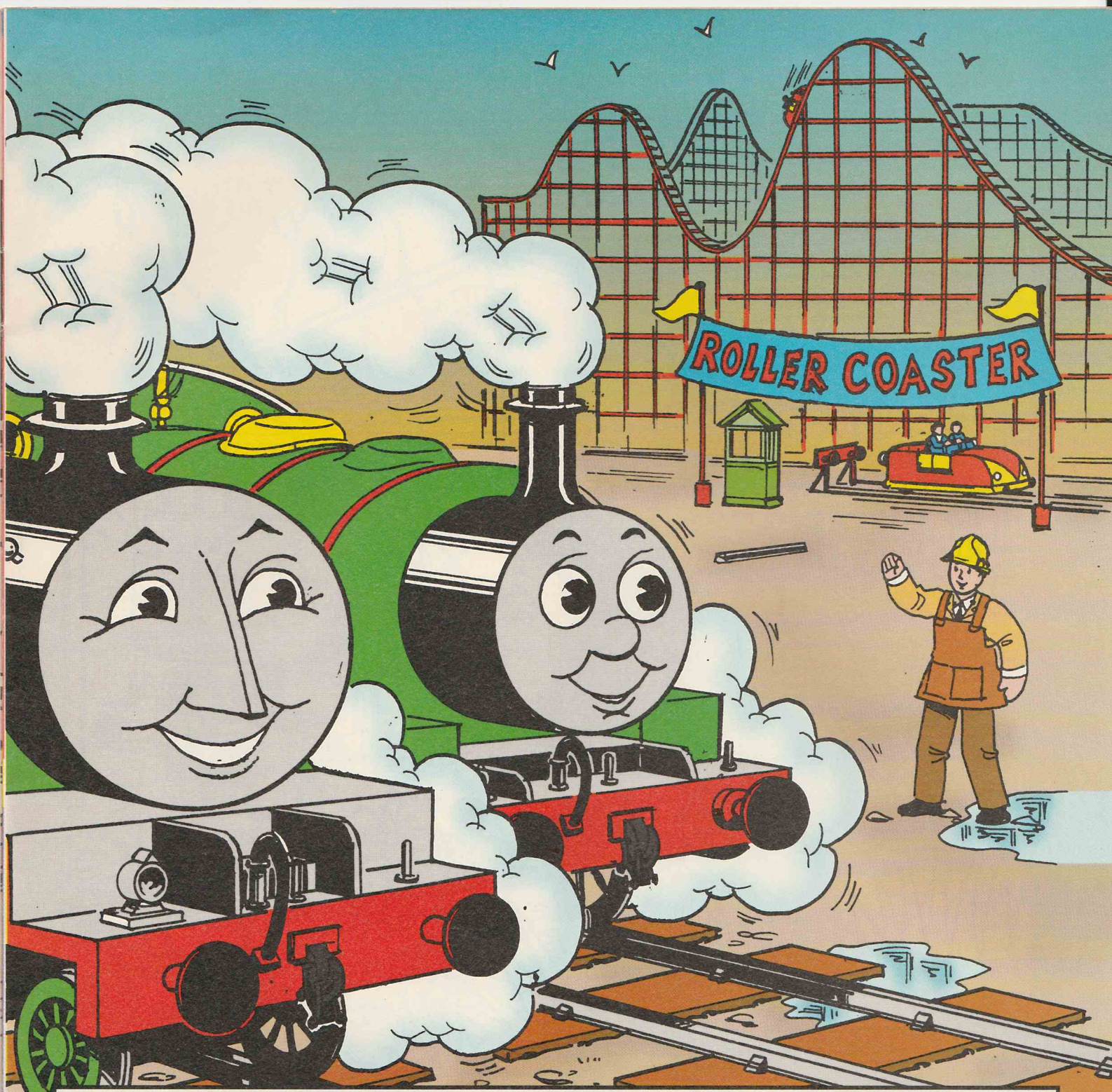


8. Percy unloaded the rails there. "Those men must be building a new station for my line," he thought. That night, in the engine shed, Percy dreamed of the grand opening.



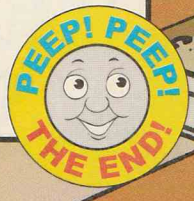
9. A few days later, he took more goods trucks to the site. But what a shock Percy had! There was no new station, just a strange railway track that rose high into the air.

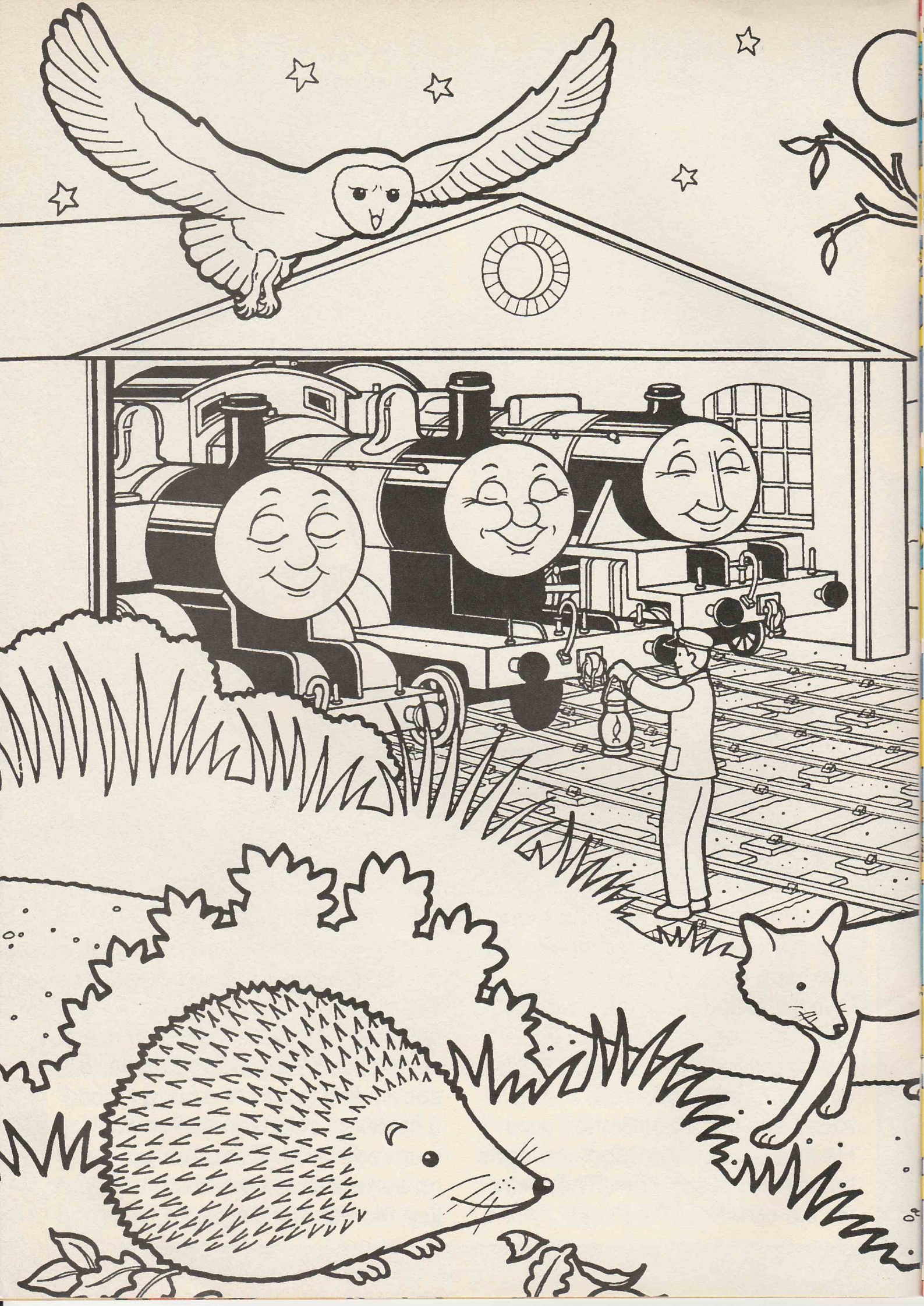
10. "I don't understand!" gasped Percy. "I'll never get up there! Besides, that track's much too narrow!" Now Percy was worried. "I don't like heights," he thought.

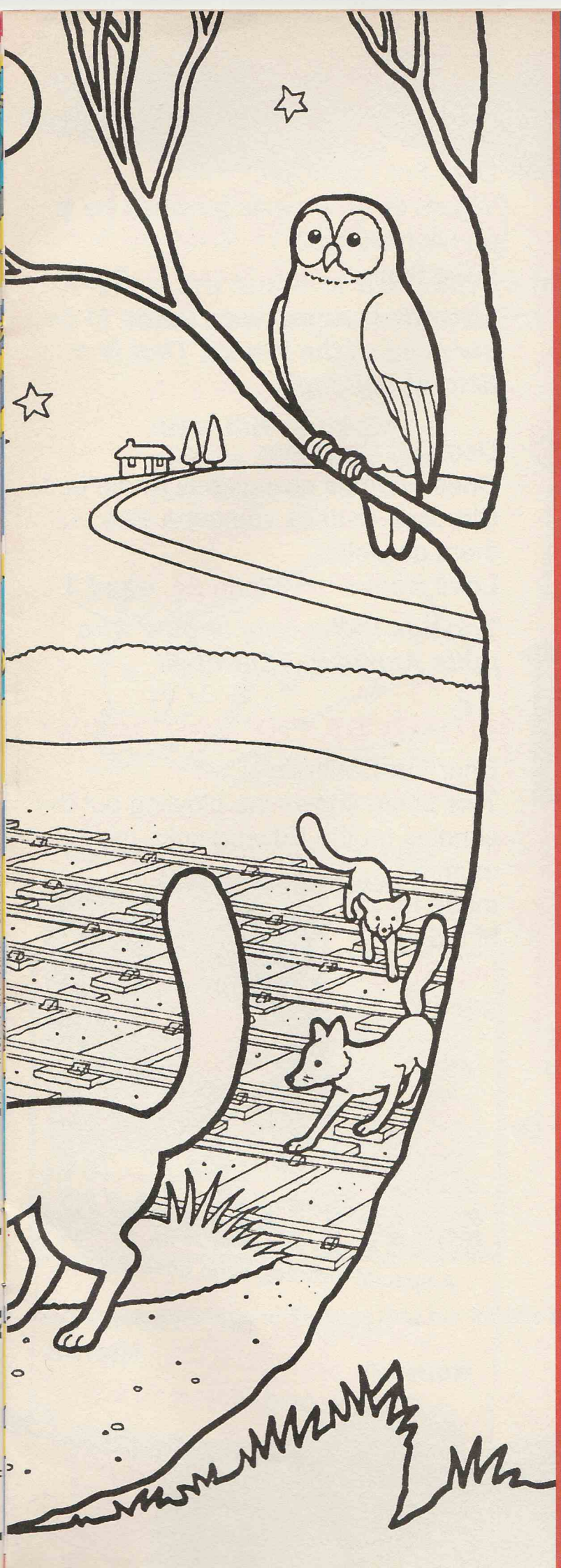


11. Percy did not say any more about the new track for weeks. He was very quiet and depressed. "We must find out what's wrong," said Thomas. "It's my new line," Percy replied. "I don't want it, after all!" As Percy explained, Henry rolled into the Main Station yard. He had some little, open carriages loaded into his trucks. "These are for the new track," he said.

12. "They're tiny!" cried Percy. "I can't pull those!" The mystery was finally solved when the engines learned it was not a new line but a roller coaster ride for holiday makers. Henry and Percy were the first to see it being tested. "I'm sorry I made a mistake," said Henry. "I'm not!" laughed Percy. "I'd rather go on someone else's branch line than that! It's scary!"

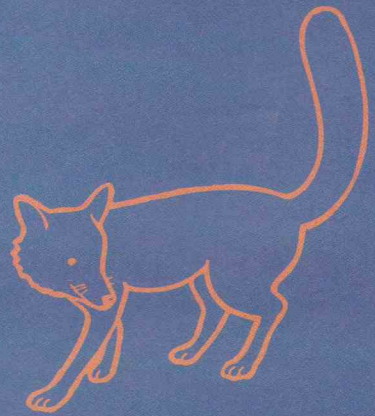






Count and colour!

It's night-time, and the engines have gone to sleep in the engine shed. But some animals come out at night, to eat and play! How many owls, stars and foxes can you spot in this scene?



YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

Dear Fat Controller,
We know you are very busy, which must make you dizzy. What we want to know best, is what are your interests? It is no crime to have spare time, so Mr Fat Controller what do you do when your day is over?
Love from Christopher Neill

I enjoyed this splendid poem so much that from now on I'm going to spend my spare time reading poetry! I can't wait to get poems from other readers, about their favourite engines!

Dear Fat Controller,
Where does Thomas go when he is on his holidays?
Love from Callum Gosden, aged 4

Thomas is sometimes taken to be serviced at the Works. That is a kind of holiday!

Dear Fat Controller,
Does Thomas always pull Annie and Clarabel, or does someone else pull them as well?
Love from Karl Stanfield, aged 3

Thomas is the only engine who pulls Annie and Clarabel.

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT

Dear Fat Controller,
This photo shows me blowing out the candles on the Edward cake my mummy made for my birthday.
Iain Riley, aged 2

BIRTHDAYS

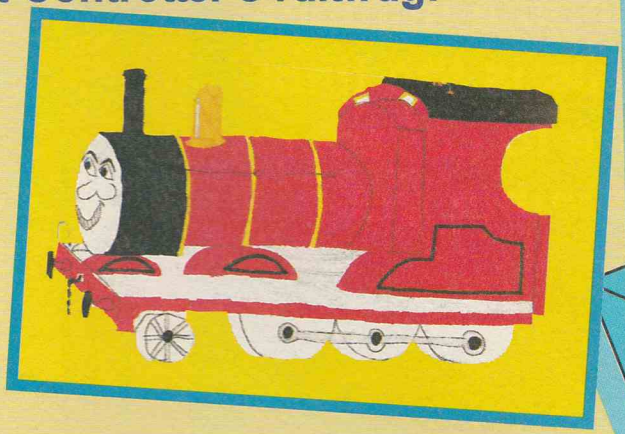
A special birthday hello goes out to

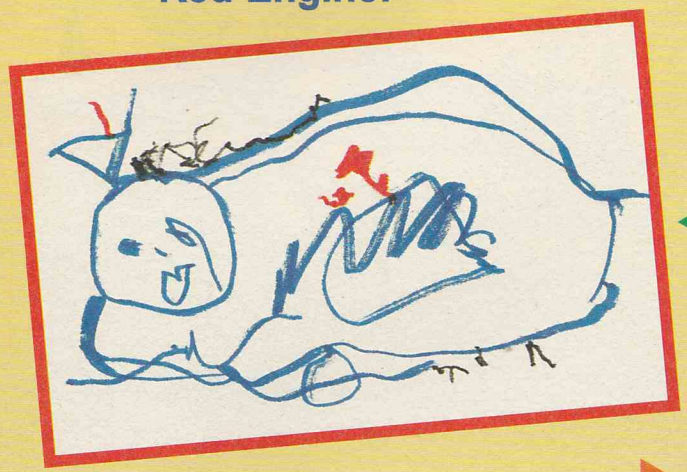
Christopher Bird, Kieran Benson, Nichola Kelly, Kieran O'Hare and Helen Drew

Drawing Board!

Here are some of the winners from our competition to draw new engines for the Fat Controller's railway!

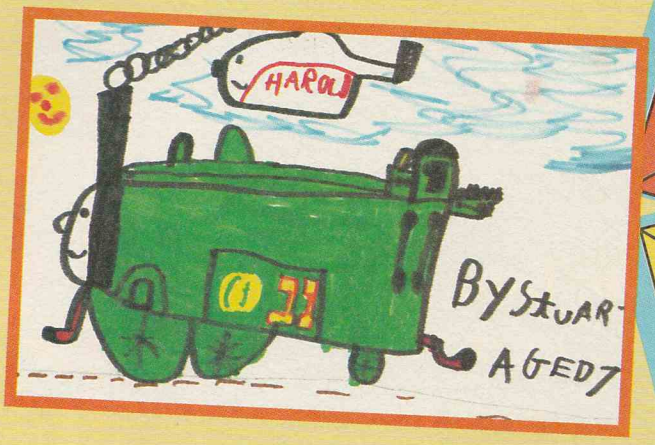
Red Saunders, aged 6, drew this splendid picture of James, the Red Engine!





Harry Killian, aged 2, sent in this lovely picture of Thomas.

Oliver and Harold look very happy in this great drawing by Stuart Wall, aged 7.



It's Fireworks Night for Gordon in this super painting by Shaun Harrison, aged 4 and a half.

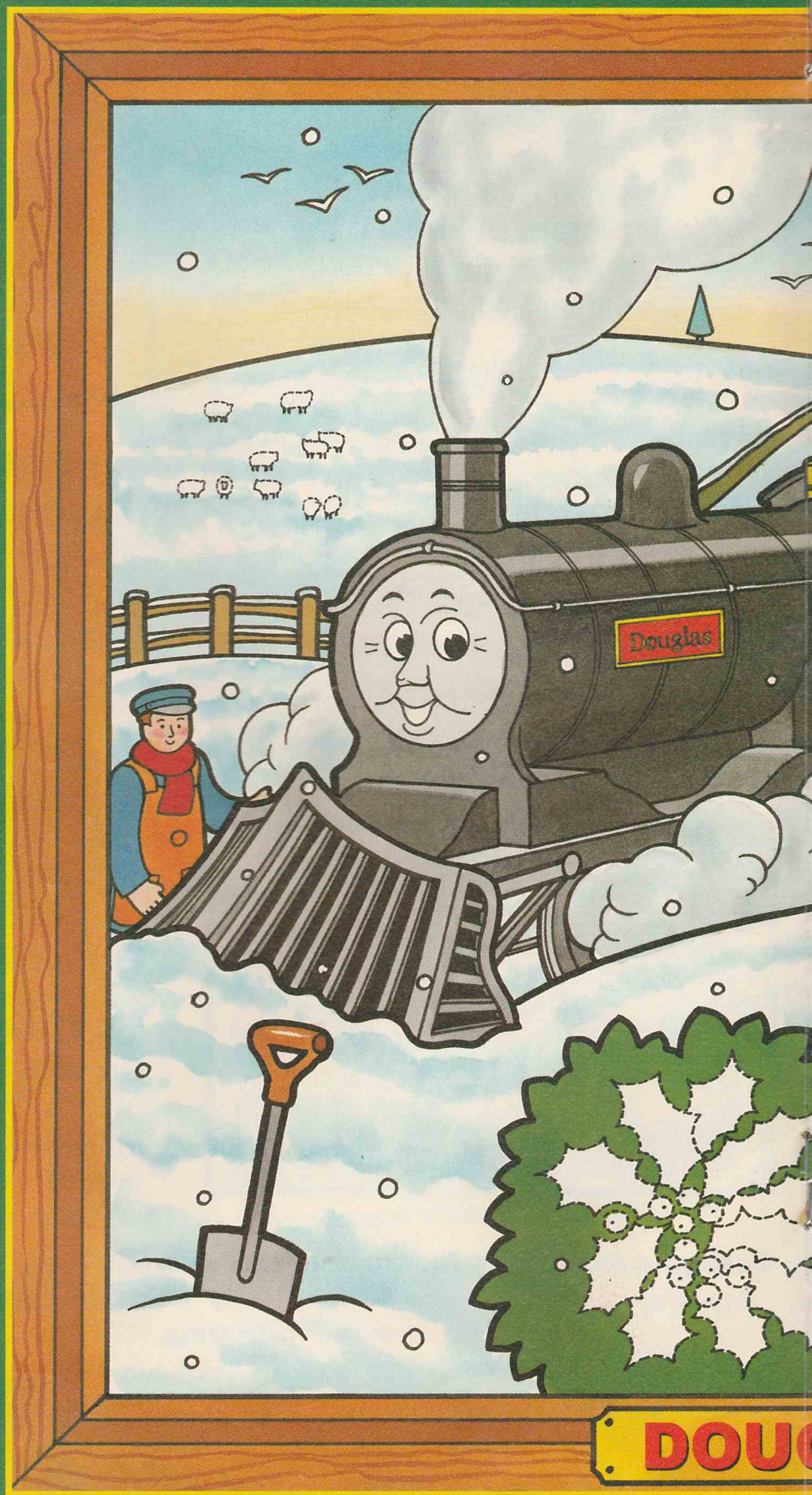
Send your drawings of Thomas and his friends to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book.

CUT OUT AND KEEP

Number G

Here's Douglas, engine number 10! This is the final picture to collect in our number gallery series. If you saved your cut-outs from the last issue, then stick them onto the page to complete the picture. Now look closely - what can you see in this snowy scene?



Hello, Douglas!
You look fine!
We enjoy the
wintertime!
All that snow you've
ploughed aside
Builds a snowman,
tall and wide!
Now count to ten if
you can see
Buttons, sheep and
green holly!

DOU

Gallery

10

Weather warning

On the seaside line, Thomas often met a friendly old sailor called the Captain. He lived in a cottage by the railway track. Usually, Thomas waited at a signal by the Captain's cottage. Then the sailor would talk to Thomas's driver.

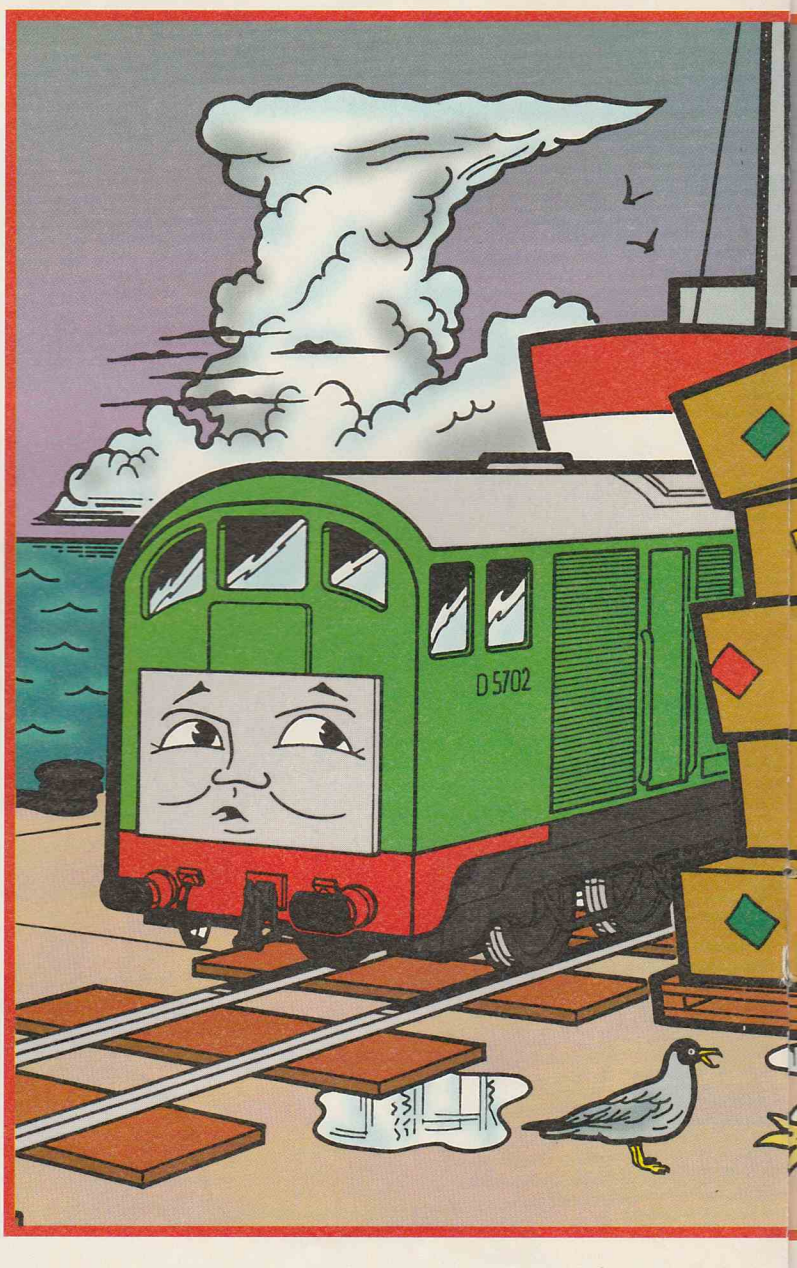
"Hello, Captain," called the driver, one morning. "It's getting cloudy. I hope it doesn't rain."

Thomas hoped so as well. He had just been washed and polished. He did not want his shiny paintwork to get wet.

"It won't rain," replied the sailor. "It's the wrong type of cloud."

During his years at sea, the Captain had learned that different types of cloud brought different types of weather. So he began to tell Thomas's driver about clouds. There were high, wispy ones called 'mare's tails' and big, fluffy ones known as 'cauliflower clouds'. Thomas did his best to remember them all, too.

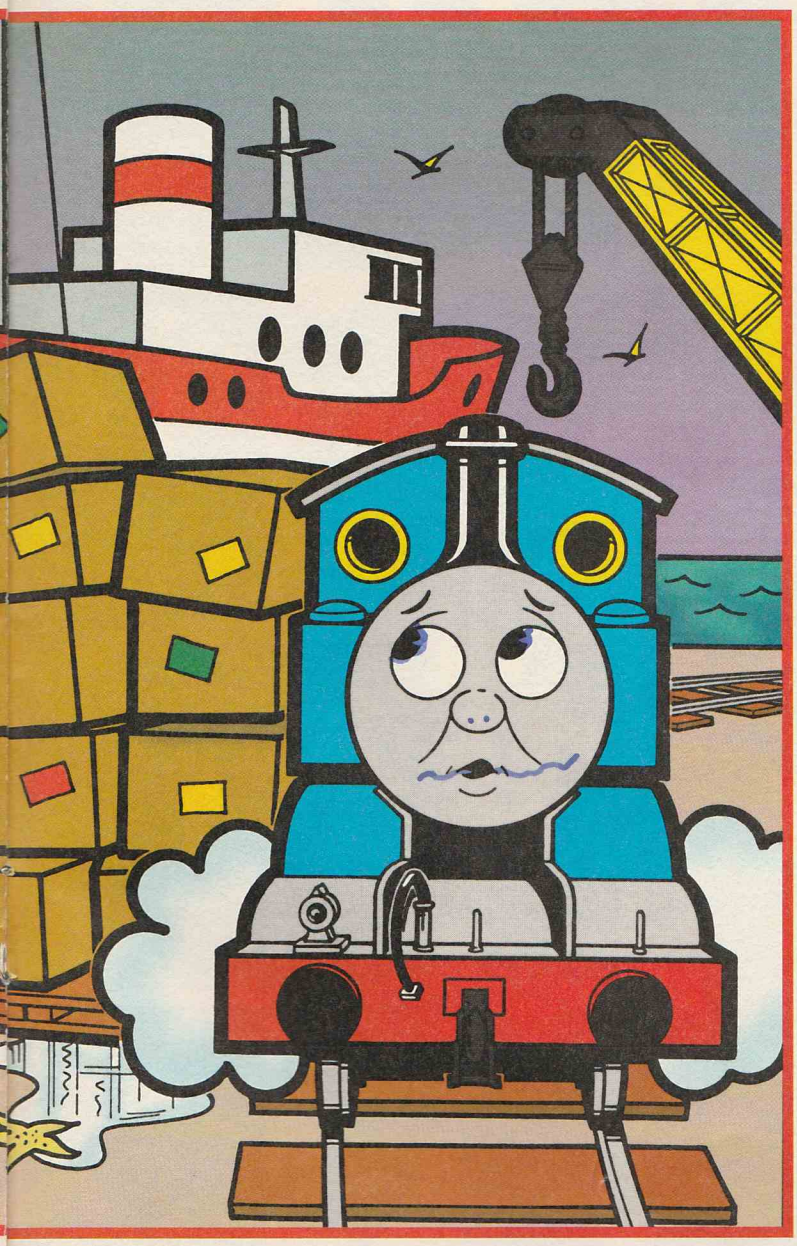
A few days later, he was sent to the Big Harbour to



help BoCo, who was shunting some trucks.

"It's my driver's tea-break, Thomas," called BoCo. "I can have a nice rest now!"

BoCo pulled up beside a huge stack of boxes that a crane had lifted off a ship. The boxes were full of vegetables, to be loaded into trucks. When Thomas looked up at the tall crane, he spotted something else and was worried.



"Don't stay near those boxes while your driver has his tea, BoCo," he warned. "It's not safe."

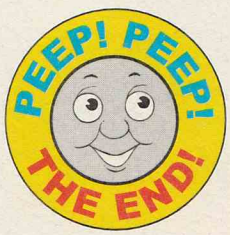
BoCo moved away before stopping to rest. Soon it began to get very stormy. Suddenly, a strong gust of wind blew the boxes down. They crashed on to the line just where BoCo had been standing.

"Thank goodness you warned me, Thomas," gasped BoCo, amazed. "How did you know that would happen?"

"I didn't," said Thomas. "But I saw some dark, heavy clouds that meant a storm was on its way. They're a weather warning for sailors."

He told BoCo what the Captain had told him.

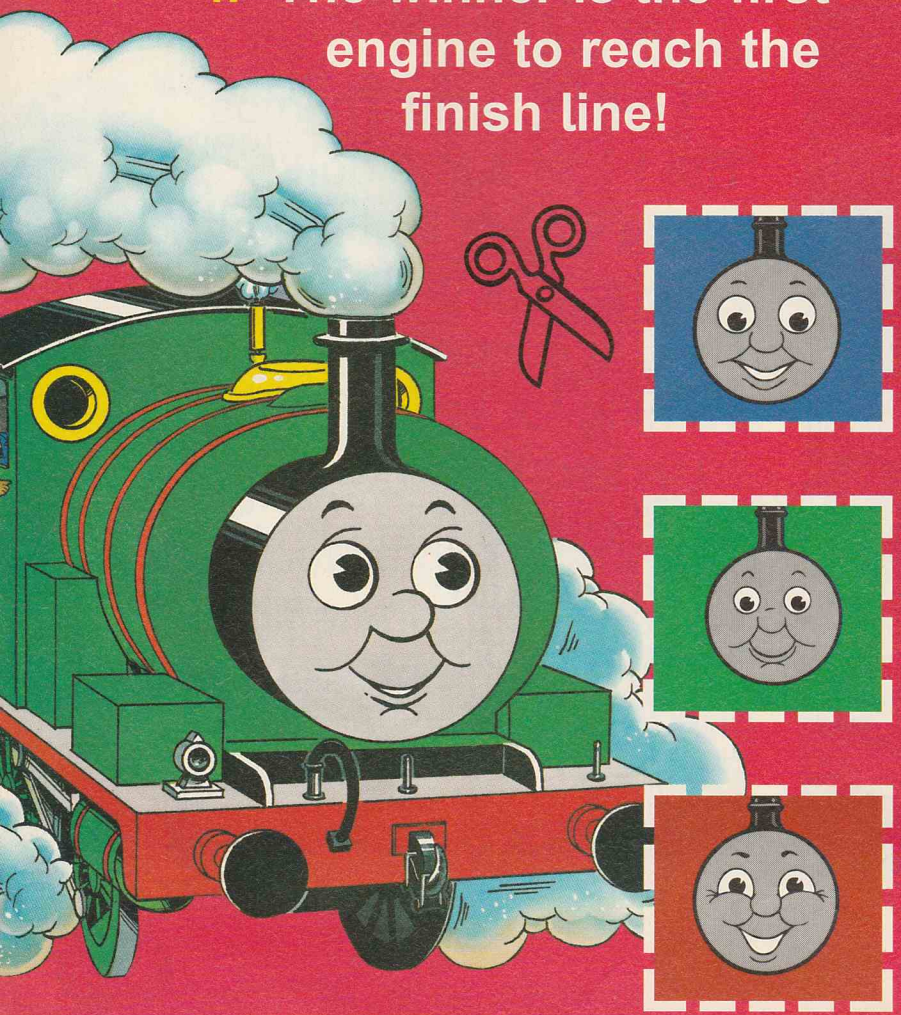
"You would make a good sailor, too, Thomas!" smiled BoCo.

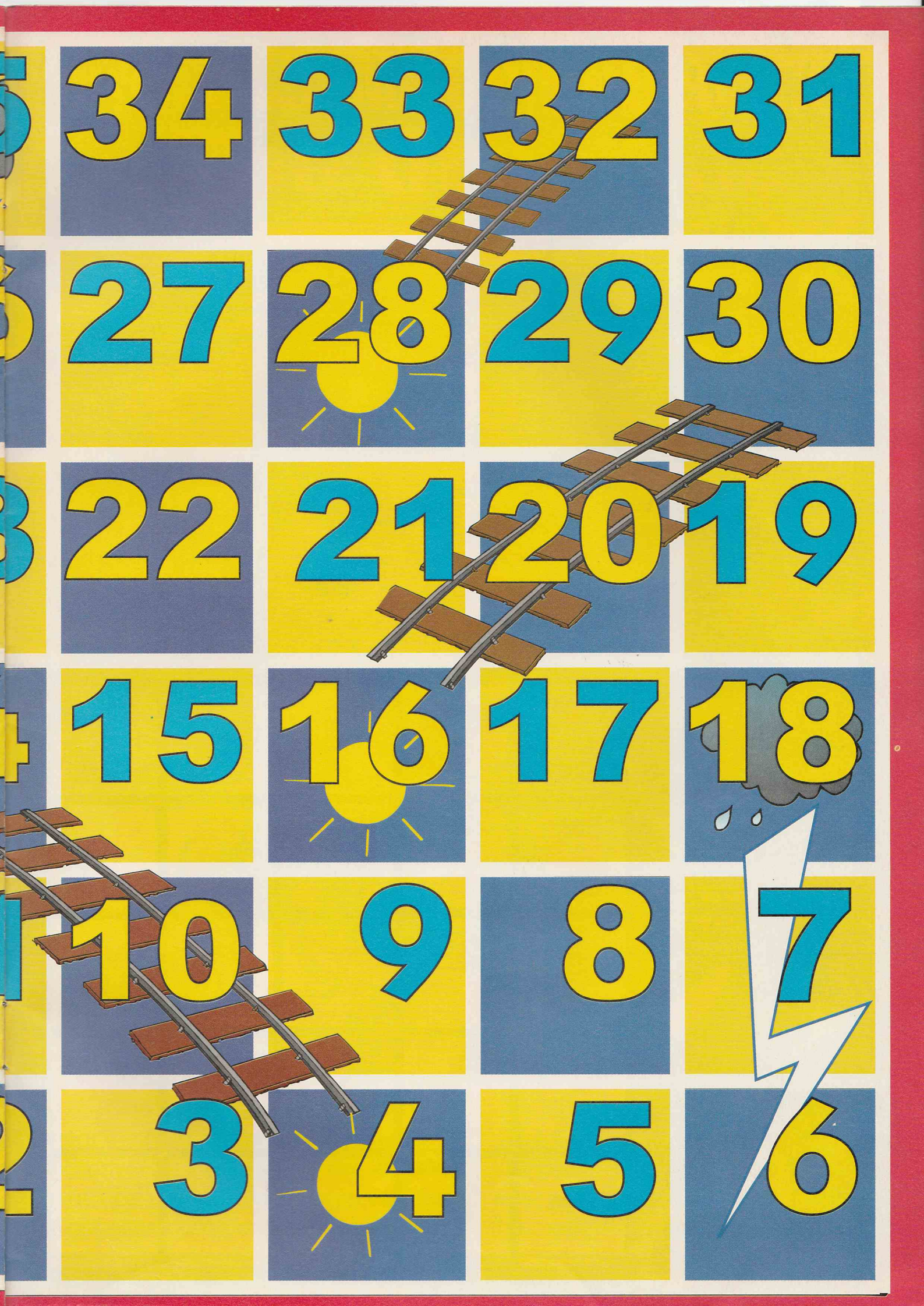


The weather game!

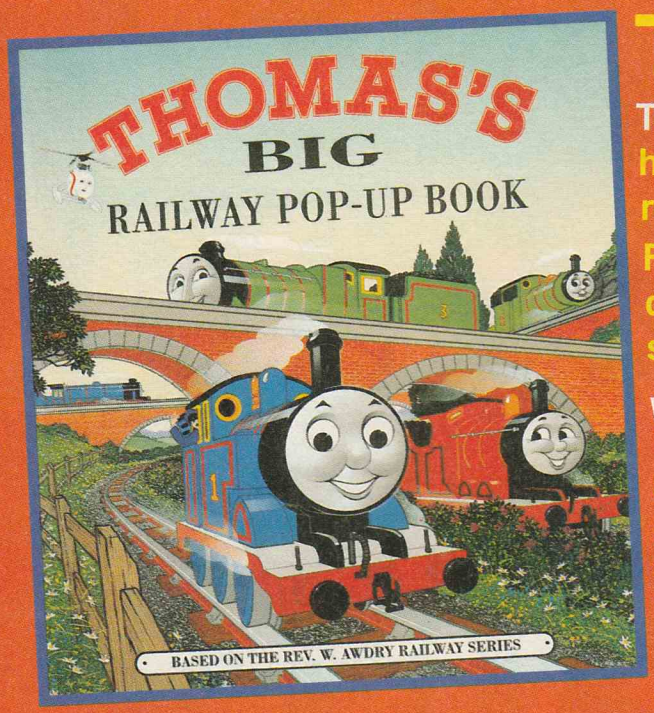
Thomas, Percy and James want to get to the shed without getting wet! Who will get home first?

1. Choose an engine counter.
2. Take it in turns to throw a dice. Then move your counter along the board by the same number shown on the dice.
3. If you land on the sun, you go **UP** the track. But look out! If you land on a cloud, you go **DOWN** the lightning.
4. The winner is the first engine to reach the finish line!




34
33
32
31
27
28
29
30
22
21
20
19
15
16
17
18
10
9
8
7
3
4
5
6

POP-UP BOOK COMPETITION!



Thomas and his friends have exciting adventures every day of the week in THOMAS'S BIG RAILWAY POP-UP BOOK. We have copies of this spectacular book of pop-up railway scenes to give away to 15 lucky winners.

For your chance to win one of these fun prizes, all you have to do is tell us the answer to this simple question.

What number engine is Henry?

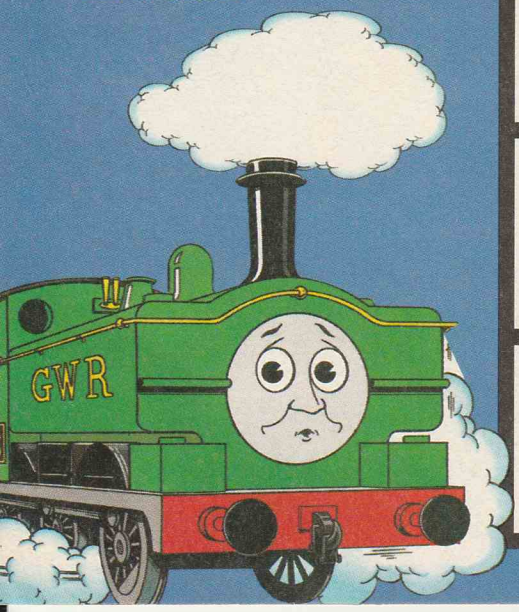
Send the answer, along with your name, age and address, to: Marvel/Pop-up competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX. Make sure your entries reach us by 31st January 1996.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Limited, and Reed Books. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged via the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

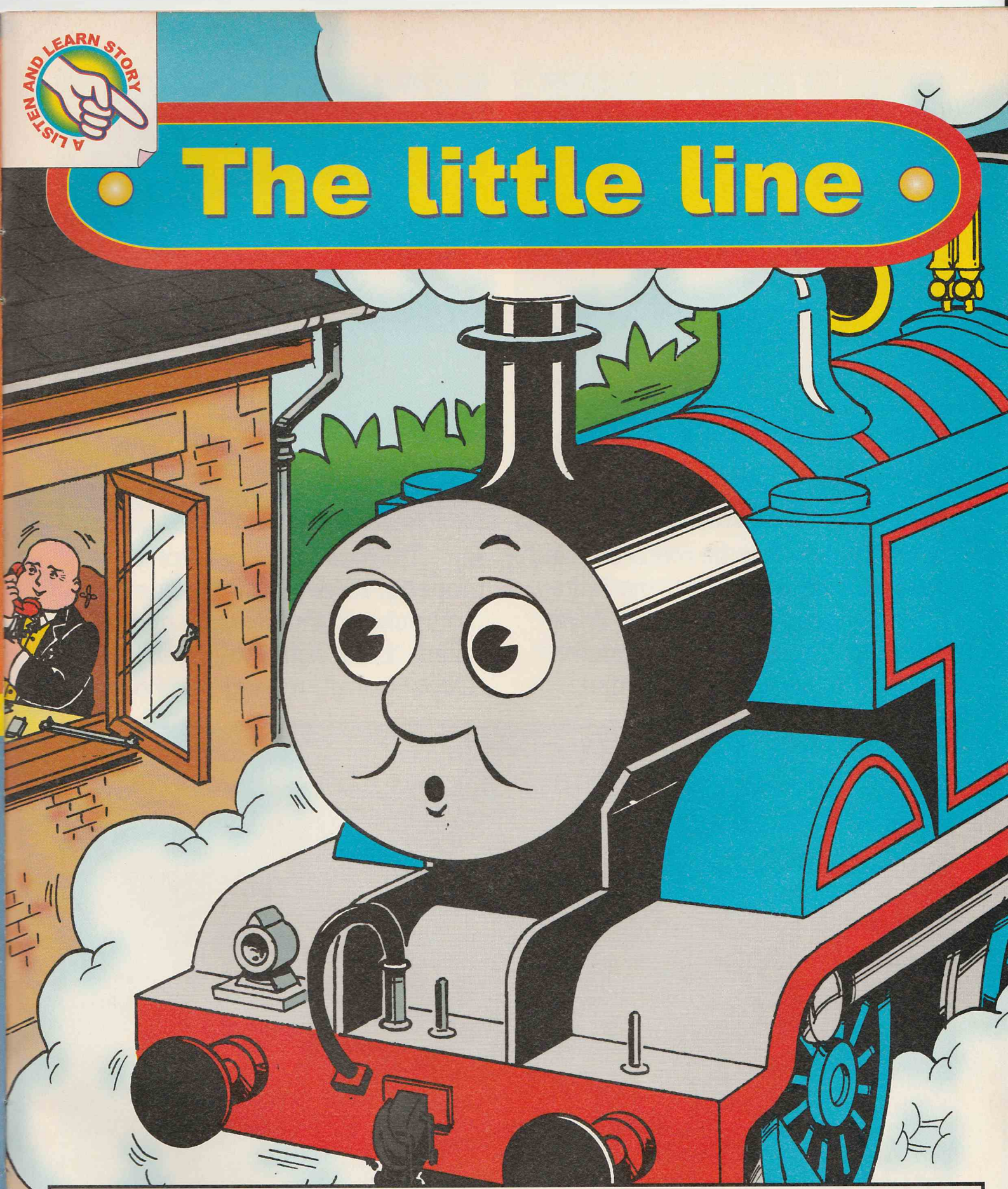
Engine puzzle!

How many engine names can you find hidden in this puzzle? You can go up or down, backwards or forwards.

C	H	T	K	T
P	E	R	C	Y
I	N	H	U	A
N	R	I	D	Y
M	Y	B	O	T



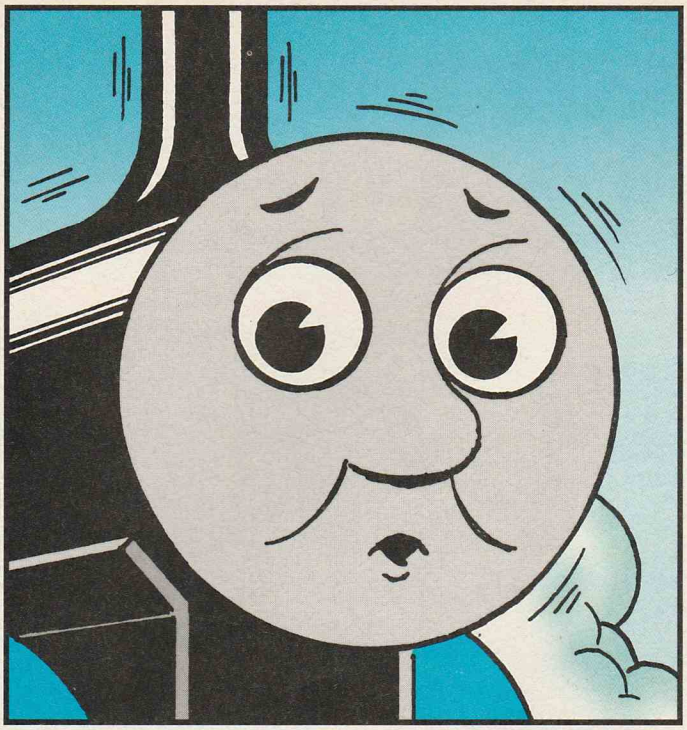
ANSWERS: HENRY PERCY DUCK TOBY



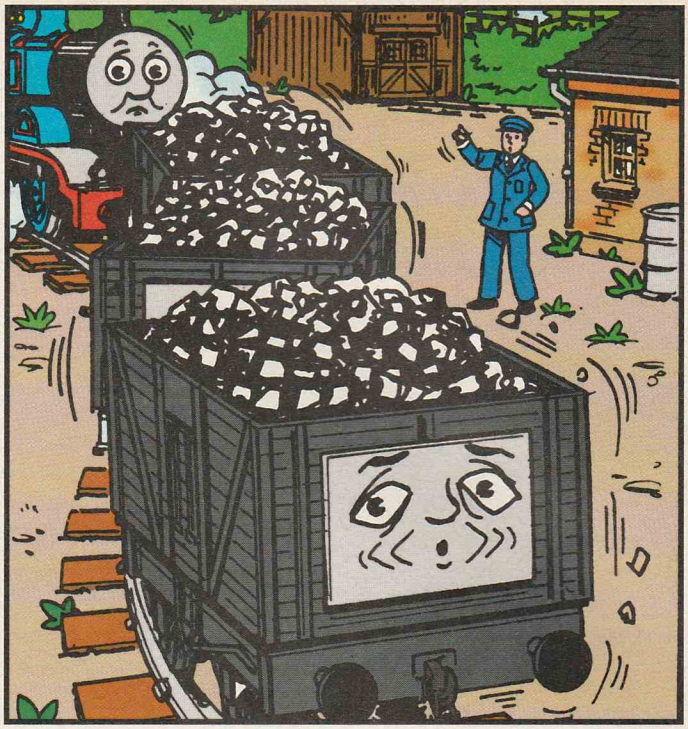
The little line

1. One day, Thomas was waiting near the Fat Controller's office while his driver fetched a lamp. The window was open and Thomas heard the Fat Controller talking on the phone.

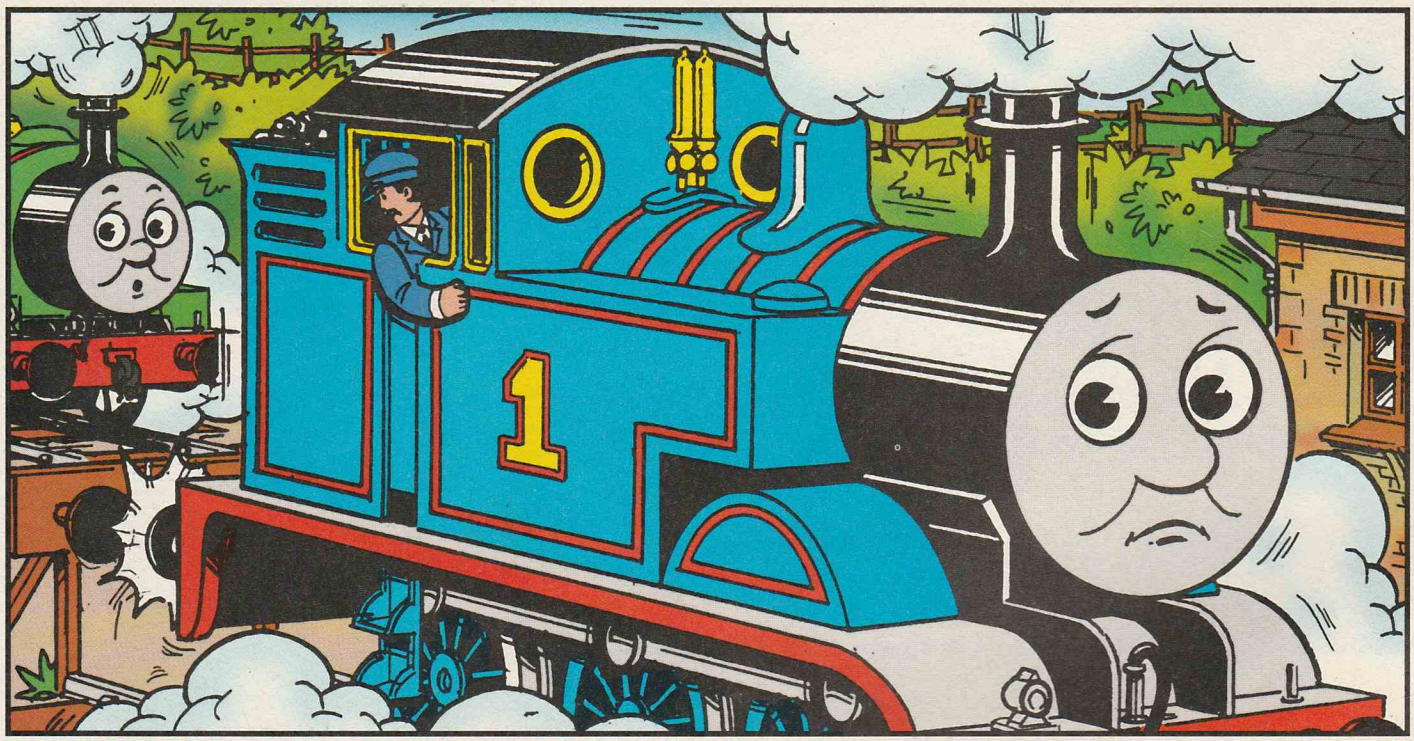
2. "Thomas's branch line will have to be very small," said the Fat Controller. Thomas's eyes flew open wide with shock. "Pip! Pip! What's the matter?" Percy called to him.



3. "My line is to be much smaller," replied Thomas. "I heard the Fat Controller say so." When his driver returned, Thomas began to shunt trucks. But he was very worried.

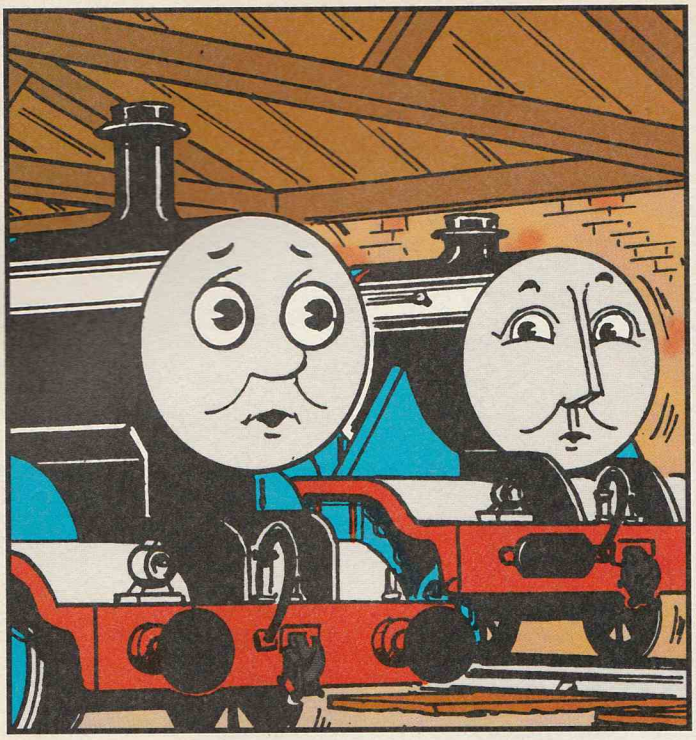


4. Thomas could not work properly. KERANNG! He bumped the trucks so they rocked and rolled. "Look out!" they cried. "Oops! Sorry!" replied Thomas.

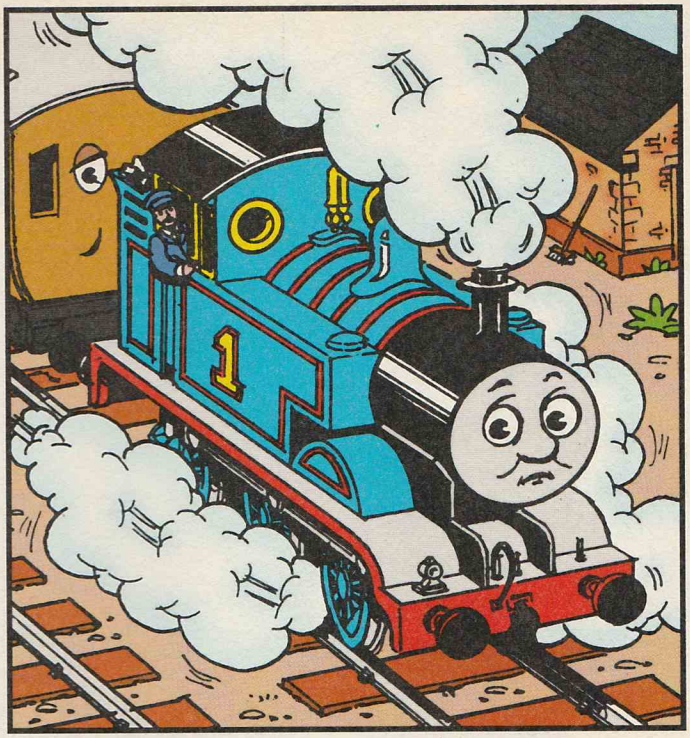


5. Next, he nearly backed into some buffers. Thomas was very unhappy. All that day he made silly mistakes. "I'm not a Really Useful Engine now!" Thomas groaned.

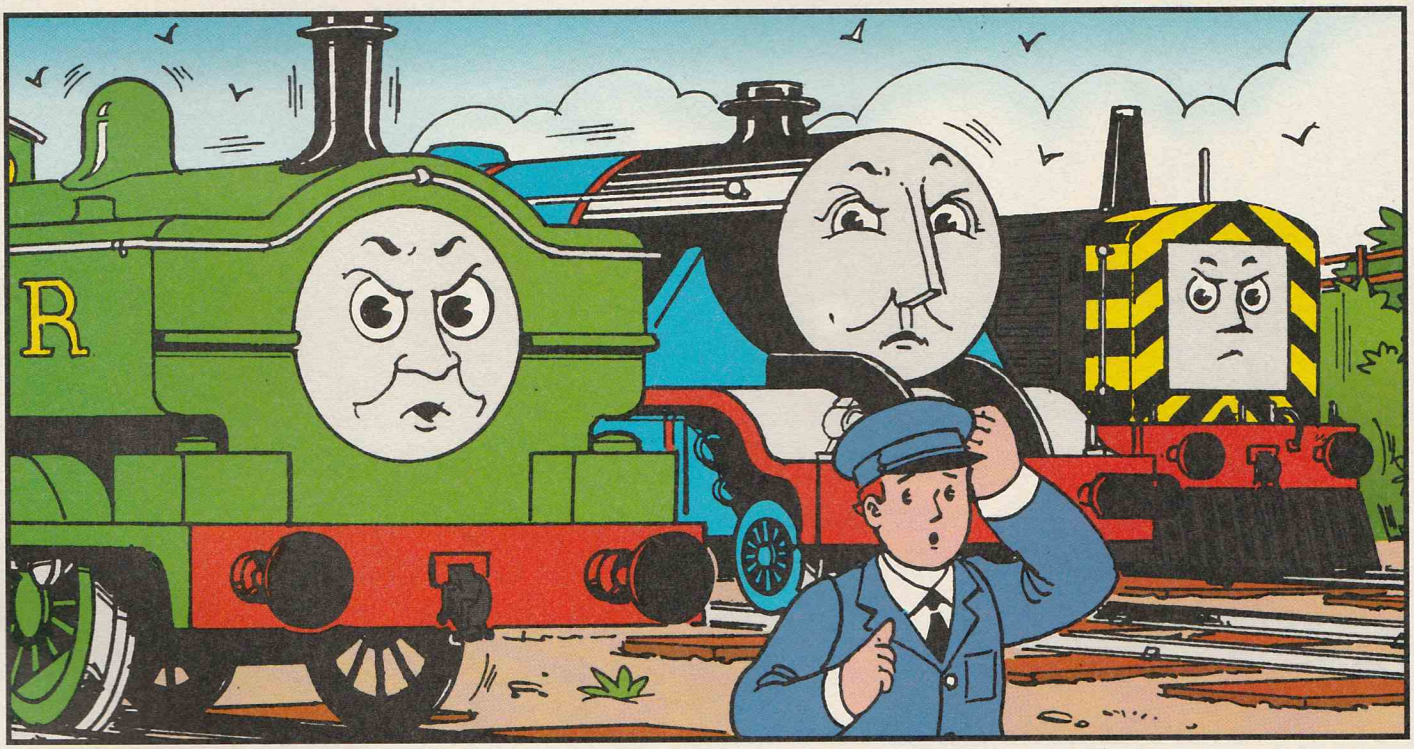
6. "I wouldn't be surprised if the Fat Controller closes my branch line altogether!" he thought. "I'll be sent for scrap!" Soon Percy had told all the engines the bad news.



7. "It's disgraceful!" fumed James, that night in the shed. "What can I do?" said Thomas, sadly. "Nothing," said Gordon. "Leave this to us!"



8. Next day, the Fat Controller sent Thomas to the Big Harbour to collect his grandson, Stephen, who was coming to stay. Thomas also had to pick up an important parcel.

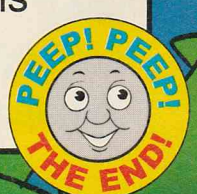


9. "Cheek!" fumed Duck. "Not even a word about poor Thomas's line!" "It's time to put my plan into action," Gordon told the others. "None of us will do any work!"

10. "We're on strike!" the engines told their amazed drivers. Mavis wouldn't go to the quarry, no one would pull any trucks and Gordon flatly refused to take the Express.

11. The Fat Controller came to see what was wrong. "We won't work without Thomas, Sir!" said Gordon. "He is a kind engine. It's not fair to make his branch line smaller!"
"There's been a mistake," smiled the Fat Controller. When Thomas returned, the Fat Controller gave the parcel to Stephen who opened it excitedly. Inside was a model of Thomas on his branch line.

12. "Just what I wanted!" he cried. "**That's** Thomas's little branch line!" the Fat Controller laughed, pointing to the train set. "I had it made for Stephen's birthday!" All the engines laughed, too, and Thomas was embarrassed by his mistake! Everyone sang 'Happy Birthday' to Stephen. "Knowing my line is safe is the best present!" said Thomas.



Subscribe to Thomas's new magazine!

13 issues for the price of 12!

Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 issues) and receive the 13th issue absolutely FREE!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 Issues & 13th issue **FREE**) for £14.00 (£21.00 overseas). Prices include postage and packaging.

Child's name ..... **Address** .....

.....

..... **Post code** ..... **Date of birth**.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my **Visa/Mastercard** or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

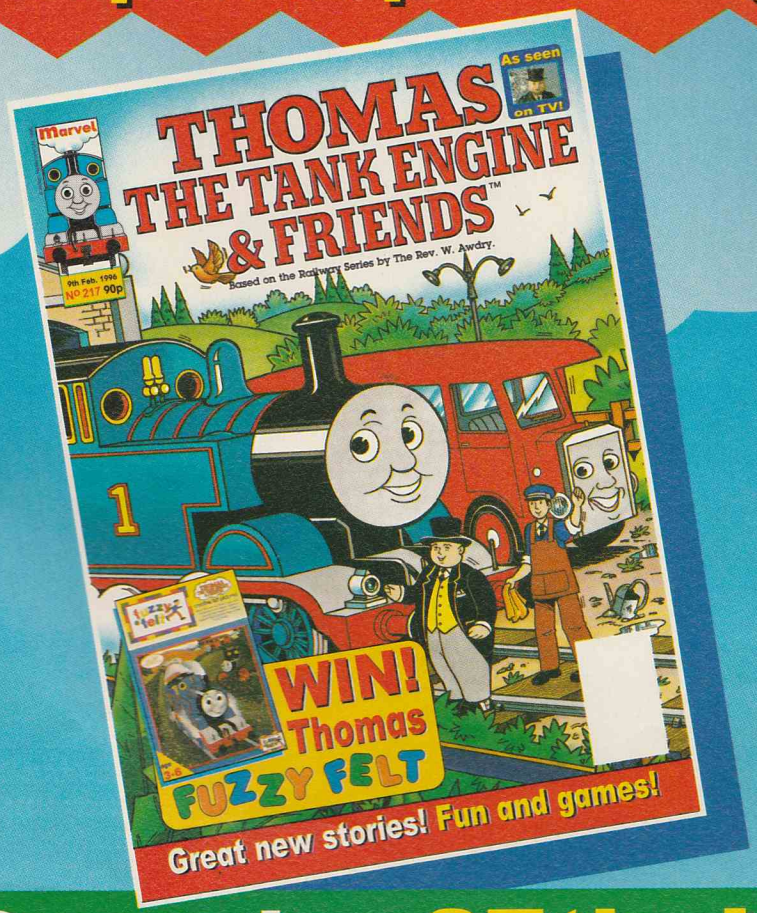
Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... **Address (if different from child's)**

.....

.....**Post code** .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

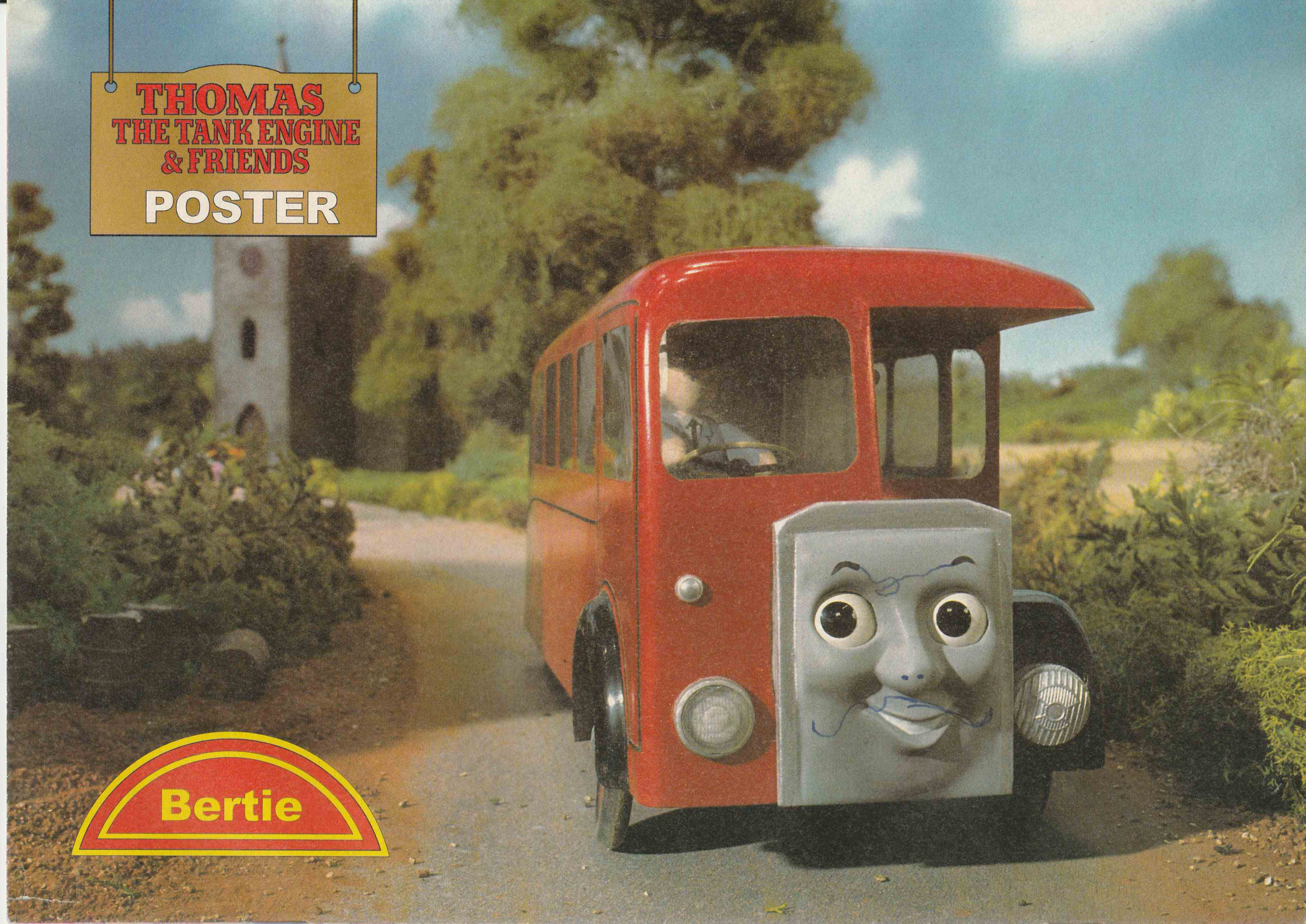
Peep! Peep! Book your ticket for...



Issue 217 of THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

- Amazing activities!
- Win Thomas prizes!
- Brand new stories!

On sale: 27th January 1996!


THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
POSTER
Bertie